

Deer Creek and Manning Creek and Wells Canyon Allotments Annual Operating Instructions 2014

I. Livestock Management:

Permittee	Permitted	Season of use
	1300 ewe/lamb Variable season of use and numbers run in one band on both allotments	July 1 –October 5 Wells Canyon can be used starting on 7/1. Not to exceed 1470 AUM's. Use of this allotment will be on a trial basis.

II. Grazing Management:

Generally, open loose herding and once-over-light grazing should be practiced. Bed grounds, shade-up areas, and salting locations should not be used more than once during the grazing season. When watering, use water and then trail off. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, springs, or Forest System roads and trails. Do not use developed water sources more than 7 days during the grazing season. Wells Canyon Allotment will be used this season to offset the loss of ground due to mining. This allotment is currently vacant. Wells Canyon is adjacent to Deer Creek Allotment.

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Crow Creek Watering:

Watering will be allowed within the Crow Creek enclosure for 7 days in September providing the sheep are moved out of the riparian area after watering. Gates need to be closed when the sheep are not at the water. The sheep can trail through the Sage Valley cattle allotment; however they are not allowed to scatter out and begin grazing on the cattle allotment.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

Riparian Grazing protocol recommends the following:

1. Deer Creek, functioning at risk high, requires a 5 inch stubble height in the AIZ at the end of the grazing season.
2. Crow Creek, functioning at risk high requires a 5 inch stubble height in the AIZ at the end of the grazing season.

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. **Use on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia (Agropyron) spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*) or **key shrub species** such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*).

Table 2. Upland Forage Utilization Levels (given in percent)

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
	Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	45
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	20	35

Upland utilization standards: Within the southern half of your allotments, wildlife winter range prescription has been identified in the Revised Forest Plan. There is no critical winter range on the allotment.

Proper use standards will be the determining factor in deciding if livestock are allowed to graze the entire season or must be removed early.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage production, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of the livestock from the allotment will occur. If livestock are removed from the Forest early, your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fees. You must request a refund in writing and fill out and sign a form from the District Office.

III. Permittee Responsibilities:

1. **Salting** - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, and designated Forest Service trails. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use. All salt bags must be removed from the Forest.
2. **Weed-free hay** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free".
3. **Maintaining Improvements** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. These standards may be set by the Forest Officer over the allotment. A delay in livestock turnout on the allotment will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed and up to standards prior to sheep entering the allotment.
4. **Noxious weeds**- Dyer's woad, leafy spurge, and thistle are located on your allotment. Because of budget constraints, the control of noxious weed needs to become a joint effort. If you know of any infestations bring them to the attention of the Forest Officer. There may be spray days coordinated on your allotment and your assistance with them would benefit all.

IV. Trailing and/or Trucking Instructions:

Sheep may be trailed onto the allotment across Rock Creek on the Montpelier-Elk Valley Range Allotment. Trailing across other National Forest System lands administered by the Bridger Teton National Forest on both the Kemmerer and Grey's River Ranger Districts must be approved and coordinated with each of the respective Districts prior to trailing (spring and fall). The following outlines trailing requirements:

- **Notify both the Kemmerer and Grey's River RD of the time and number of sheep at the Salt Flat corrals.**
- **NO MORE than 2 days to go from the Smith Fork Allotment (BLM) to the corrals, up to Spring Creek and across to the C-T border. This time limit is to allow trailing NOT grazing. The same 2 days will apply on your return trip to the BLM.**
- **On the return trip, both RD's will again be notified when the sheep will be trailing from the C-T to the corrals and off to the BLM.**
- **While at the corrals, all sheep will be kept in the corrals, not allowed to graze the adjoining area.**
- **Please alternate your approach to the corrals from the BLM and again from the corrals back to the BLM, i.e.; approach to the east of the corral coming and exit to the west of the corral going, AND THEN rotate the next year by approaching on the west side and exiting on the east side. Do not take the same approach/exit trail in the same year.**
- **Certified weed-free hay must be provided to all livestock while on the National Forest System Lands.**

V. Special Instructions:

- Please review the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- Please inform the Montpelier Ranger District (208-847-0375), especially during entry date, of a convenient time and place to enable an accurate count of livestock.
- Be certain that your herder is aware of all unit and allotment boundaries, and that sheep are kept in the proper areas.
- Areas around sheep camps should be kept clean and trash packed out.
- Leaving campfires unattended could result in a wildfire hazard. Camps should be equipped with a shovel and axe for putting out campfires.
- **Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30th, 2014 following the grazing season. Failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**
- This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

VI. Wolf Status:

Wolves in Idaho are no longer under the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act. On May 5, 2011, wolf management in all of Idaho reverted to state management under state code 36-1107 and Idaho's 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. [PDF, 662 KB]
Simply put, the law says wolves molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals may be disposed of by livestock or domestic animal owners, their employees, agents and animal damage control personnel. No permit from Fish and Game is necessary. The incident must be reported to the Fish and Game director within 72 hours, with additional reasonable time allowed if access to the site where taken is limited. Wolves so taken shall remain the property of the state. Livestock and domestic animal owners may take all nonlethal steps they deem necessary to protect their property. A permit must be obtained from the director to control wolves not molesting or attacking livestock or domestic animals. Control is also permitted by owners, their employees and agents pursuant to the Idaho department of fish and game harvest rules. "Molesting" means the actions of a wolf that are annoying, disturbing or persecuting, especially with hostile intent or injurious effect, or chasing, driving, flushing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, or stalking or lying in wait for, livestock or domestic animals.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wolves/?getPage=167>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Idaho State Office - Toll-free at: 877-661-1908

To report suspected wolf depredations on livestock or pets, contact

USDA Wildlife Services: Toll-free at: 866-487-3297 or 208-378-5077

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office	Cell
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-1108	(208) 313-7328
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